



#### Special points of interest:

- Cooperative Agreement Announcements out
- New members of OEH&E
- Recount of disaster response: Hurricane Katrina
- Current engineering and environmental health projects

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## The Inaugural Edition!

**W**elcome to the inaugural edition of *The WADO Report*! The Western Arizona District Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (WADO) has decided to begin publishing a periodical to give it's colleagues, partners and most importantly, its customers a different look at the activities that take place within the district. The District Office provides direct environmental health and engineering services to 13 distinct Native American tribes with an average service population over 30,000. These services are provided out of three Service Units, as well as the District Office by 19 environmental health & engineering professionals. In partnership with the American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people and communities that we serve, we work to fulfill the Indian Health Service mission of raising the "physical, mental, social, and spiritual health" of our customers—the tribal members in Western Arizona.

In this inaugural issue, you'll learn a little bit about some of the current exciting and innovative environmental health and engineering projects happening in our tribal communities. Also featured are our newest team members—the next generation of public health professionals!



### Quechan Tribe Hires Injury Prevention Coordinator

*Submitted by: Mike Reed*

Fort Yuma OEH&E is happy to welcome Lisa Aguerro to the Injury Prevention arena. Lisa has recently accepted a position as the first Injury Prevention Coordinator for the Quechan Tribe; a position made possible by a five year cooperative agreement grant with the Indian Health Service designed to increase tribal capacity. Lisa has contributed significantly to the health and wellness of the Quechan and Cocopah tribes for approximately four years while working at Fort Yuma Head Start. Lisa is an injury prevention leader whose service has been essential to the success of programs such as Sleep Safe and Child Passenger Safety. In her new position, Lisa will continue protecting the tribe's children from injuries while working with the community to develop and implement injury prevention initiatives. As a mother and community member herself, Lisa has a vested interest in the health and safety of the Quechan population. Fort Yuma OEH&E looks forward to working closely with her to expand the injury prevention services and would like to extend a warm welcome. If



Lisa Aguerro providing car seat training

you wish to learn more about Lisa's programs and services, she can be reached at:

**Lisa Aguerro, Coordinator**  
Injury Prevention Program  
Quechan Tribe  
P.O. Box 1899  
Yuma, AZ 85366  
(760) 572-0213, Ext. 231.

WESTERN ARIZONA DISTRICT OFFICE  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & ENGINEERING

The WADO Report

## OEH&E Would Like to Welcome It's Newest Members!

### LT Michael Reed, Environmental Health Officer

My name is **Mike Reed** and I am assigned to the Fort Yuma Service Unit OEH&E. I graduated from Oregon State University with a B.S. in Environmental Health and Safety. After a brief period as a Police Officer in Eugene Oregon, I moved to Spokane Washington to work with the US Air Force. During almost 4 years at Fairchild Air Force Base, I worked primarily in occupational safety and health and community injury prevention. I am currently finishing the final coursework for a Masters of Arts (MA) in Management and leadership and intend to start a Masters in Public Health (MPH) program in the near future. I like to shoot guns, ride motorcycles, and spend a lot of time outdoors. I am really happy to be in my current assignment and look forward to working with the community and other IHS employees in the future.



### D. Lyle Setwyn, Field Environmental Engineer

My name is **D. Lyle Setwyn** and I am the new field engineer at Fort Yuma. I just wanted to give everyone a short blurb as to who I am. I was raised in Reedsburg, Wisconsin (pop. 10,000) by two middle-class parents Eugene and Sharol Setwyn. After high school I went on to study at the University of Madison-Wisconsin. After a few years of wandering in music, I got my B.S. in Geological Engineering, Geology, and Math. I then went on to serve in the Peace Corps-Burkina Faso (West Africa) program. There, I helped repair a water reservoir and taught high school math. I look forward to working with everyone here in Phoenix Area.



### LTJG Isabel Y. Espinosa, Environmental Health Officer

**LTJG Isabel Espinosa** is the Environmental Health Officer for the Chemehuevi, Fort Mojave, Havasupai, and Hualapai Indian Tribes and works at the Colorado River Service Unit in Parker, Arizona. Originally from Houston, Texas, Isabel received her Bachelors of Science Degree in Microbiology from Texas A&M University and her Masters of Public Health degree with an emphasis in Environmental Health from the University of North Texas Health Science Center, School of Public Health. In June 2005, Isabel started working for Indian Health Service and has enjoyed her time working with the tribes and learning about their cultures. Her interests include fishing, hiking, and working out and traveling.



### LTJG Roger Hargrove, Field Environmental Engineer

**LTJG Roger Hargrove** joined the Western Arizona District team in November, 2004. As the Environmental Engineer stationed in Parker, Roger provides engineering services to Chemehuevi, Hualapai, and Fort Mojave.

Roger graduated from Northern Arizona University in May, 2004. Before finishing up his last year in school, he worked in the Tucson Area Indian Health Service as a Commissioned Officer Student Extern Training Program (COSTEP) engineering intern. An avid outdoorsman, Roger enjoys exploring the vast desert landscape with his girlfriend Lisa and dog Jake.



## Western Arizona District OEH&E and Hurricane Katrina: Assisting in a Time of Need

On August 30<sup>th</sup>, Hurricane Katrina devastated the Mississippi and Louisiana gulf coast region. The effects of this hurricane and what is now considered the most destructive and costliest natural disaster in the United States affected many lives.

In response to national relief efforts, 35 United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Environmental Health Commissioned Officers and civilians were initially deployed to the region. Additional deployments of EHO's and



LCDR Morones taking GPS coordinates of areas with standing water in Biloxi, MS. Disease-carrying mosquitoes breeding in standing water posed a public health threat to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Engineers from the Phoenix Area followed all the way through November. From the Western Arizona District Office, the following individuals were deployed to Mississippi and Louisiana:



LT Michael Reed, LCDR Robert Morones, LCDR Vincent Slayton-Garcia, LCDR Debra Hassinan, and CDR Thomas Heintzman.

Responders conducted public health assessments of shelters and neighborhoods, food distribution sites, water and wastewater infra-

structure, health care facilities and restaurants. Western Arizona District Office personnel provided assistance as well by sending a "care package" and post-hurricane fact sheets (in 3 languages), which were distributed to shelters and displaced individuals in Biloxi and Gulfport, Mississippi. Phoenix Area accounted for approximately one-third of all USPHS Commissioned Officers deployed to the Gulf Coast. Those who responded from the Phoenix Area found the experience humbling, enriching, and memorable.



*Submitted by: VINCENT SLAYTON-GARCIA, District Environmental Health Officer. Contact Vincent at 480-592-0091 x222.*

## The Indian Health Service in Uniform

Did you know....many IHS personnel are actually Commissioned Officers in one of the seven U.S. Uniformed Services? The origins of the Public Health Service can be traced back to 1798, when a group of physicians and nurses were charged with providing medical care to sick and injured merchant seamen. They were called the Marine Hospital Service (MHS). Later in 1889, legislation formalized a uniformed, Commissioned Corps Component of the MHS. Over time the MHS expanded and so did their scope of work. Because of this, in 1912 their title was officially changed to "Public Health Service" (PHS). Today the PHS Commissioned Corps is over 6,000 members strong and provides services to a variety of agencies to include: Indian Health Service,

Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Food & Drug Administration, Bureau of Prisons, and many others. In the past officers were asked to wear their uniform "at least" once per week. Recently the Director of the Indian Health Service has issued a directive for all officers to wear their uniform daily with pride and distinction. On any given day you might encounter a variety of uniforms. You might find the traditional "Salt & Peppers" (Black slacks with white shirt) worn to meetings or the solid khaki uniform on other occasions. On rare occasions you might even find officers wearing the Service Dress Blue which resembles a black suit with black tie. The BDU (camouflaged uniform) has recently been added to the list of required uniforms for Commissioned Offi-

cers. It is typically worn while responding to disaster situations such as the recent Hurricane Katrina and Rita where it was proven to be an effective field/work uniform. It has been authorized and in some cases mandated for wear in the service area on the last Friday of every month. If you would like to know more about the PHS Commissioned Corps, feel free to contact your local Office of Environmental Health.



*Submitted by: ROBERT MORONES, District Injury Prevention Coordinator. Contact Robert at 480-592-0091 x231.*



## Phoenix Service Unit On The Rise

Like Phoenix, one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the United States, the tribal communities in the Phoenix Service Unit have been experiencing the same steady



Ak Chin Senior Center

increase and expansion. Compared to previous years, the number of newly constructed facilities in the service unit has significantly risen. Twelve construction projects were completed the Service Unit within a year. The projects included an Olympic-sized indoor pool built in the Tonto Apache community and a new roadway in the Yavapai Apache Nation community. In the Ak-Chin Indian Community, a new senior center, community swimming pool, concession stand, and Copper Cactus Grill in Harrah's were built. In Fort McDowell major projects included a new RV park with swimming pool and spa

amenities and the Radisson Fort McDowell Hotel and Resort. The resort was a multi-phased project involving the construction of a five-story hotel, two swimming pools, two spas, a pool bar, several food outlets, and a convention center with a ballroom.



Submitted by: DACIA QUICK, Environmental Health Specialist. Contact Dacia at 480-592-0091 x223

## Fighting the Bite

### West Nile Virus Surveillance on the Colorado River Indian Reservation

In the summer of 2005, IHS Environmental Health Officer LCDR Hayden R. Hardie worked closely with the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Environmental Protection Office (EPO), CRIT Fish and Game Office, and the La Paz County Health Department in conducting arbovirus surveillance on the Colorado River Indian Reservation. This involved setting mosquito traps at various locations on the Reservation to collect mosquito samples that were later sent to the Arizona State Lab for analysis. The West Nile Virus was isolated from two samples during the summer

trapping season. Coordinated efforts by CRIT EPO and Fish and Game led to an environmental modification of a mosquito breeding ground, targeted larvaciding, and efforts to increase public



LCDR Hayden Hardie examining a mosquito collection bag

awareness. The collaborative work has resulted in lower numbers of mosquitoes trapped as compared to previous years. Some residents in the communities most affected in the past have commented that the nuisance of mosquitoes in 2005 was remarkably less than in previous years. Additionally, to date, there has not been a human case of West Nile Virus present on the Colorado River Indian Reservation.

Submitted by: HAYDEN HARDIE, Environmental Health Officer. Contact Hayden at 928-669-3176.

## Our Tribal Environmental Health Partners

For those who may not know, three Tribes in western Arizona have had established environmental health programs since the early 1990's. All three have and continue to partner with I.H.S. and the Western Arizona District OEHE program on a variety of projects and initiatives.

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community initiated their program in the mid-1990's. Naomi Evanishyn, Environmental Health Specialist, pioneered the program and continues to serve as the community's lead environ-

mental health advisor along with her colleague Michael Campbell. Both have been valuable resources to the Salt River community, often coordinating low-cost or free rabies vaccination and spay/neuter clinics for families with pets, teaching people how to properly install car seats, reviewing designs for new facilities, and surveying health and safety conditions at local restaurants in the Scottsdale Pavilions.

The Yavapai-Prescott Tribe started their environmental health program in the early 1990's. Jill Bury has served as the

Tribal Environmental Health Specialist since 2002. Responsible for surveying health and safety conditions for facilities and programs operating within Reservation and trust lands, Jill is also responsible for training Tribal employees on OSHA requirements.

The Gila River Indian Community developed its own environmental health program in the mid-90's. Virginia Begay has managed the Tribe's environmental health program since it began.

## The Future Starts Now

### *The IHS Environmental Health Summer Internship*

For a few months in the summer of 2005, Wright State University student ENS Stephanie Tubbs worked for the Indian Health Service Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE) as an Environmental Health Officer intern.

During her tenure in Parker,



Stephanie conducted food safety surveys, West Nile Virus surveillance, and assessments of institutional facilities and other community facilities. Stephanie also initiated work on a project that was identified as a high priority need in the community. After a series of meetings with her preceptor and the Executive Director of the CRIT Environmental Protection Office, Diana De Leon, PhD, a project to locate and assess the condition of unused water wells on the Colorado River Indian Reservation was proposed. Dr. De Leon developed a project protocol, which served as Stephanie's project roadmap. The purpose of the project was to locate, document, and assess the condition of unused water wells on the



reservation. The result of the project will help the Colorado River Indian Tribes in securing funding to properly abandon wells that pose a threat to the health and safety of local community members.

*Submitted by: HAYDEN HARDIE, Environmental Health Officer, 928-669-3176.*

## Regional Wastewater System Safeguards Health and Protects the Colorado River

The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, the Indian Health Service (IHS), and the United States Department of Agriculture/Rural Development (USDA/RD) have planned and constructed a new wastewater treatment and disposal facility on eastern shore of Lake Havasu in Southeast California. The system utilizes anaerobic digestion ponds to treat wastewater. The system was chosen for its low operating costs and the available land to support the project size. It began providing service in November 2005. The project was funded primarily by a combination loan/grant from USDA/RD, and also by the IHS and the Chemehuevi

Tribe. The Western Arizona District Office of the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service designed and inspected the \$2.7 million project, and Technology Construction, Inc. of Bullhead City, AZ constructed it. The facility will serve Tribal homes, community facilities, and nearby private developments and businesses. It replaces an undersized community treatment system and numerous substandard on-site disposal systems. The Tribe is allowing developments off the reservation to connect to the system as a way to support operations, and to contribute to the improvement of the surrounding environment.



Construction of 14" sewage force main



Wastewater lagoons during construction



LTJG Roger Hargrove inspecting the system



Sewage lagoon in operation

*Submitted by: TOM HEINTZMAN, District Engineer, 480-592-0091 x226.*

## Making Waves at the Colorado River Service Unit

In response to growth and community needs, new projects and construction in Chemehuevi, Fort Mojave, Havasupai and Hualapai continue to materialize.

The **Chemehuevi Tribe** completed Phase I of their Toxic Materials Assessment Project. Tribal member's homes in the subdivision were assessed for hazardous materials such as mold, mercury, and asbestos. Phase II will address clean up and treatment of any toxic materials.

In **Fort Mojave**, construction began on the new Mojave Crossing Events Center which will offer various music concerts and entertainment events. The expansion at the Avi Resort & Casino also features a new swimming pool and beach club area.

The **Hualapai Nation**, in conjunction with Grand Canyon West Corporation, initiated construction of new facilities to increase



Fort Mojave Crossing Events Center

tourism revenues for the Tribe. A western-themed town located at Grand Canyon West opened in September and offers attractions such as horse back and horse drawn wagon rides. The glass



Construction of the western town

construction of the Grand Canyon Skywalk is expected to open around the fall of 2006.

In **Havasupai**, the Tribe continues to explore viable solutions to liquid and solid waste disposal. Disposal options tried have included composting of wastes on site (pictured below, at the campground) and hauling of portable toilets via helicopter.



*Submitted by: ISABEL ESPINOSA, Environmental Health Officer. Contact her at 928-669-3179.*

## Colorado River Recreational Water Monitoring

District EHS personnel served as technical advisors to the Hualapai Tribe during initial proposals by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Park Service (NPS) to sample water along the Colorado River for waterborne bacteria and viruses. Water samples are taken from five sites along the Colorado River, including Diamond Creek

and Quartermaster on the Reservation. Sampling and testing will aid in characterizing the environmental and health impact resulting from the interaction between humans and disease-causing organisms.



LTJG Espinosa filtering water from the Colorado River at Diamond Creek.

## Want to contribute to *The WADO Report*?

We would like to hear and report more about what is going on in your community with respect to Environmental Health, Engineering and in general, public health. If you have questions about *The WADO Report* or have something to contribute to this publication, feel free to call, write or e-mail us:

### Indian Health Service

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Office of Environmental Health & Engineering  
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## News from the O & M Front

Larry Stapp has served as the Western Arizona District's Utilities Consultant since 2001. A primary consultant for tribal utilities and operations and maintenance (O&M) programs, Larry has served as a valuable resource for all 13 tribes in the district. Conducting sanitary surveys of water and wastewater infrastructure, assisting tribes in developing viable solid waste disposal options, and helping utility operators troubleshoot problems encountered with water or wastewater systems are among Larry's responsibilities. One of Larry's projects in 2006 involves working with tribal utilities and environmental protection offices to properly abandon un-



Larry Stapp during a sanitary survey in Salt River

used water wells.

A former US Peace Corps Volunteer (Honduras, 1989-91), Larry is no stranger to working with developing communities. He worked with the Navajo Nation

at Many Farms in the mid-to-late 90's. Larry is interested in continuing to volunteer his time and skills to developing communities nationally and internationally after he turns to the next chapter in his life. An avid antique collector, Larry also enjoys spending his free time with his grandchildren.

*Submitted by: VINCENT SLAYTON-GARCIA,, District Environmental Health Officer. Contact Vincent at 480-592-0091 x222.*

## WHO TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

### DISTRICT OFFICE:

**(480) 592-0091**

**(480) 592-0096 fax**

#### Sanitation Facilities Construction

Tom Heintzman, P.E. (Ext. 226)

*District Engineer*

Larry Stapp (Ext. 227)

*District Utilities Consultant*

Debra Hassinan, P.E. (Ext. 224)

*Engineer Consultant (Ak Chin, Fort McDowell, Salt River, Tonto Apache, Yavapai-Apache, Yavapai-PreScott)*

Terrence Curley, P.E. (Ext. 237)

*Engineer Consultant (Havasupai)*

Catherine Silentman (Ext. 228)

*Draftsman*

Curtis Begay (Ext. 230)

*Construction Representative*

Jimmy Charlie (Ext. 229)

*Construction Representative*

#### Environmental Health

Vincent Slayton-Garcia, REHS (Ext. 222)

*District Environmental Health Officer*

Robert Morones, REHS (Ext. 231)

*District Injury Prevention Coordinator*

Dacia Quick, MPH (Ext. 223)

*Environmental Health Specialist (Ak Chin, Fort McDowell,, Tonto Apache, Yavapai-Apache, PIMC,)*



April Greyeyes

*Administrative Assistant*

### FORT YUMA OEH&E:

**(760) 572-4242 Engineering**

**(760) 572-4238 Environmental Health**

**(760) 572-4240 fax**

#### Sanitation Facilities Construction

Lyle Setwyn, E.I.T.

*Environmental Engineer (Cocopah, Quechan, & CRIT)*

#### Environmental Health

Michael Reed

*Environmental Health Officer (Cocopah and Quechan)*



Ella John

*Administrative Assistant*

### PARKER OEH&E:

**(928) 669-3180**

**(928) 669-3181 fax**

#### Sanitation Facilities Construction

Roger Hargrove, E.I.T.

*Environmental Engineer (Chemehuevi, Fort Mojave, Hualapai)*

#### Environmental Health

Hayden Hardie, REHS (direct at 3176)

*Environmental Health Officer (CRIT)*

Isabel Espinosa, MPH (direct at 3179)

*Environmental Health Officer (Chemehuevi, Fort Mojave, Havasupai, Hualapai)*

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## The WADO Report

### Training Update



For more information on the following courses, please contact the WADO office at 480-592-0091.

- Intermediate Injury Prevention August, 2006 Salt Lake City, UT  
This course builds upon the knowledge and skills addressed in the Introduction to Injury Prevention. This course reviews the basics of data interpretation, coalition building, program planning, evaluation, marketing and advocacy. The course includes multiple hands-on community and computer-based activities.
- Child Passenger Safety Technician Course Call for details Call for details  
The standardized child passenger safety technician (CPST) certification course is usually 4-5 days long and combines classroom instruction, hands-on work with car seats and vehicles, and a community safety seat checkup. Attendance is required for the entire course. The participants will use their vehicle for the hands on portions of the class. The participants will be in stalling seats in various vehicles so dress comfortably.

#### Tribes Served by the Western Arizona District Office of Environmental Health & Engineering (OEHE)

Ak-Chin Indian Community	Chemehuevi Tribe	Cocopa Tribe	Colorado River Indian Tribes	Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
Fort Mojave Tribe	Havasupai Tribe	Hualapai Nation	Quechan Tribe	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
	Tonto Apache Tribe	Yavapai-Apache Nation	Yavapai-Prescott Tribe	